

ABSTRACT

Viscoelastic surfactant based aqueous fluid systems
5 useful as thickening agents in various applications, e.g.
to suspend particles produced during the excavation of
geologic formations. The surfactants are
zwitterionic/amphoteric surfactants such as dihydroxyl
alkyl glycinate, alkyl ampho acetate or propionate, alkyl
10 betaine, alkyl amidopropyl betaine and alkylimino mono-
or di-propionates derived from certain waxes, fats and
oils. The thickening agent is used in conjunction with an
inorganic water-soluble salt or organic additive such as
phthalic acid, salicylic acid or their salts.

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